

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A positioning apparatus, comprising  
a plug member ~~(12)~~ projecting from a first block ~~(1)~~ and adapted for insertion  
into a positioning hole ~~(5)~~ formed in a second block ~~(2)~~,

a plurality of slide portions ~~(61, 61)~~ opposed to each other across the plug  
member in an opposed direction and ~~(12)~~ arranged around the plug member ~~(12)~~ for  
movement in a first radial direction ~~(D1)~~ substantially orthogonal to the opposed  
direction thereof,

a first pressing member ~~(15)~~ diametrically expandably and diametrically  
contractibly and axially movably within a predetermined range arranged outside the  
slide portions ~~(61, 61)~~,

a second pressing member ~~(19)~~ diametrically expandably and diametrically  
contractibly and axially movably within a predetermined range arranged outside the  
slide portions ~~(61, 61)~~ and inside the first pressing member ~~(15)~~,

wherein the first pressing member ~~(15)~~ or the second pressing member ~~(19)~~ is  
arranged to be driven toward a base end by a drive arrangement ~~means (D)~~, such that  
the slide portions ~~(61, 61)~~ expand the first pressing member ~~(15)~~ in a second radial  
direction ~~(D2)~~ different from the first radial direction ~~(D1)~~, and such that the slide  
portions ~~(61, 61)~~ are moved in the first radial direction ~~(D1)~~ with respect to the plug  
member ~~(12)~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim  
1, including

an inclined outer surface ~~(13)~~ formed on the second pressing member ~~(19)~~,  
an inclined inner surface ~~(17)~~ enabling a tapering engagement with the  
inclined outer surface ~~(13)~~ formed on the first pressing member ~~(15)~~,

an axially movable drive member ~~(21)~~ arranged to be inserted into the plug  
member ~~(12)~~, said drive member ~~(21)~~ connected to the first pressing member ~~(15)~~ or  
the second pressing member ~~(19)~~,

said drive member ~~(21)~~ being arranged to move the first pressing member ~~(15)~~

or the second pressing member ~~(19)~~ toward the base end for locking to expand the first pressing member ~~(15)~~ in the second radial direction ~~(D2)~~ by the tapering engagement and to bring the first pressing member ~~(15)~~ into close contact with an inner peripheral surface of the positioning hole ~~(5)~~, and

said drive member ~~(21)~~ being also arranged to move the first pressing member ~~(15)~~ or the second pressing member ~~(19)~~ toward a leading end for releasing by canceling the diametrically expanded condition of the first pressing member ~~(15)~~ and canceling the closely contacted condition.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, including

an advancing ~~means (69) arranged~~ arrangement configured to advance the first pressing member ~~(15)~~ or the second pressing member ~~(19)~~ toward a leading end.

Claims 4-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1 ~~or Claim 4~~, wherein

the first pressing member ~~or pressing member (15)~~ is formed in an annular shape.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 7, wherein

a slit ~~(51)~~ is formed in the first pressing member ~~or pressing member (15)~~,  
said slit enabling the first pressing member ~~or the pressing member (15)~~ to deform in a diametrically expanding direction and a diametrically contracting direction.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the second pressing member ~~(19)~~ is formed in an annular shape.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 9, including

a slit ~~(57)~~ formed in the second pressing member ~~(19)~~, said slit enabling the second pressing member ~~(19)~~ to deform in a diametrically expanding direction and a diametrically contracting direction.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 9, including

gaps ~~(A, A)~~ disposed between the second pressing member ~~(19)~~ and the plug member ~~(12)~~ in the first radial direction ~~(D1)~~.

Claims 12-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1 ~~or claim 4~~, wherein

the drive arrangement ~~means (D)~~ is configured ~~arranged~~ to move the second block ~~(2)~~ toward a base end via the first pressing member ~~or pressing member (15)~~ such that the first pressing member ~~or pressing member (15)~~ comes into close contact with an inner peripheral surface of the positioning hole ~~(5)~~, and presses a supported surface ~~(2a)~~ of the second block ~~(2)~~ against a support surface ~~(1a)~~ of the first block ~~(1)~~.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). A clamping system, comprising the positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1 ~~or claim 4~~.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). A clamping system, comprising a plurality of positioning apparatuses, wherein at least one of which is a positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1 ~~or claim 4~~.